

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present:                   Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager  
                                      Bobby Yu, City Attorney  
                                      Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director  
                                      Manny Amado, Public Safety Director  
                                      Andy Luna, Fire Department  
                                      Betty Villegas, Housing Authority Director  
                                      Judge Darlene Chavez

Council Present:               Bob Teso  
                                      Herman Lopez  
                                      Paul Diaz  
                                      Akanni Oyegbola  
                                      Anita Romero  
                                      Robert Romero

Others:                         Marcos Moreno, Ramon's Miracle on 31<sup>st</sup> St.  
                                      Larry Gonzales, Ramon's Miracle on 31<sup>st</sup> St.  
                                      Dennis Luttrell, 301 E. Benson Highway  
                                      Kelly Griffith, Ex. Dir., Center for Economic Recovery  
                                      Alonso Morado, Comm. Engagement Coordinator, Primavera  
(via Zoom)

Mayor Teso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ITEM #03 – MISSION STATEMENT

Councilwoman Rogers read the Mission Statement.

#### ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL

Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero will be a little bit late.

All other members of the Council were present.

#### ITEM #05 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE AVAILABLE

ITEM #05.5 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Teso: We have inserted a Call to the Audience for today's meeting, so we'll take that as Item #05.5. I wrote it in here anyway. So, I'm asking for anybody in the audience that needs to speak. I think we have Mr. Marcos Moreno and Larry Gonzales from Ramon's Miracle on 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Please come up, if you'd like.

Mr. Moreno: Good evening, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Before you get started, I'd like to apologize for not, not having brought you on a little bit earlier, but ...

Mr. Moreno: (Inaudible).

Mayor Teso: ... I wanna also send my condolences to your family for your loss and that of the City's. Thank you. Go ahead.

Mr. Moreno: Mr. Mayor and esteemed Council, and everybody, my name is Marcos Moreno. I am a proud member of South Tucson. And what I mean by that is I was raised here since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Mission View, Wakefield, Pueblo. My mom still lives at 345 West 33<sup>rd</sup>. Lori Martinez is married to Gilbert Martinez. My father was a South Tucson Explorer. He was an investigator here, a police officer, Henry Moreno. Died in 1986. I, I spent 22 years in the military. I say that because I like representing who I am, South Tucson. I've worked extensively with Sgt. Cajas with his Explorers, guiding his youth the way they should be, you know, doing what they're doing, they did amazing things. We come to you on behalf of Ramon's Miracle. When I was in the military, I was asked to provide some logistics for Ramon's Miracle. And it brought me back to the time where my mom would drive us down to the long line just to get a toy that I didn't want, but candy that she wanted. There was something about Ramon's candy bags that, that I didn't understand at the time, it was traditional Mexican candy bags. So, years later, my brother Kiki, which was a South Tucson employee, Kiki Moreno, he was Santa Claus a couple years. And when I joined the military, they asked me to do logistics. I went down there, I saw the impact that Ramon had on the community. You know, Ramon, if you don't know anything about Ramon, it started years ago. He took out maybe a small loan just to finance to give ...

(Background noise)

Mr. Moreno: ... (inaudible) to some other, the kids. Well, every year, we would do it at the Casino. Thousands upon thousands of gifts for families that were in line from 4: a.m. on up. Silver Saddle Steakhouse was one of our biggest donators. It was a major event. People came from far and wide. We had kids that, at one time, had toys that would come back and want to be part of it. Unfortunately, with COVID, we did not have the event and then a few months later, Ramon passed due to COVID. He left behind a beautiful wife and three sons?

Mr. Gonzales: Yes.

Mr. Moreno: Three sons. And luckily, for Ramon's Miracle, Larry and Suavecito Martinez, along with extensive volunteers and myself, we continued and (inaudible) make sure his tradition lives on. And this

would have been Ramon's 50<sup>th</sup> event. It's huge. So, I have a little flier that I'll leave here. I don't want to take too much, too much of your time, but what I, what I, what we come to you asking if we can do something to honor his, his name. Everything that he's done for the community, for the church, the church of children, that's what I call them. Because when Ramon spoke, it was almost like a priest was speaking. All eyes were glued to Ramon. I've never met anybody as generous as Ramon. It was beautiful. No, no, didn't matter what happened. Every kid walked away with, with a gift. And we were hoping, respectfully, we come to you and ask, you know, maybe 31<sup>st</sup> Street, you know, call it Ramon's Miracle. You know, Ramon, Larry and I have agreed if you say, "You know what? You can do this but it's gonna require this much cash." So be it. We can do it. We have a lot of generous friends, partners that we can collaborate with. If you need 1,700 (inaudible) lined up on a certain day, we can do that too. We're willing to do the legwork because we believe in this. So, I'm gonna leave the fliers here so you that you can give 'em, 'cause I want to respect your spot. Do you want to say something (inaudible)?

Mr. Gonzales: Good afternoon. My name is Larry Gonzales. I've been helping Ramon for almost six years. The reason why I started helping Ramon 'cause (inaudible) those kids. That's the reason why. And I thought I'll give my time, I volunteered and my kids volunteer. (Inaudible) my heart and I know (inaudible) I wanna do something for him. He should be honored. That way my kids can see that he (inaudible). Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you for coming.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, I definitely wanted to give my condolences to your father. I volunteered with him. And as you saw us two years ago at, at Pascua Yaqui, just giving out toys and, and before COVID, we, we discussed bringing it here to South Tucson. That's the last thing that (inaudible) Ramon talked about and he used to (inaudible) first started in (inaudible). My condolences.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to speak?

Mr. Luttrell: Good evening, Mayor and Council. Dennis Luttrell, 301 East Benson Highway, South Tucson. I was just noticing that we still don't have Call to the Audience in the agenda. And there was no reference as to whether or not you would need approving or disapproving of the video meetings for, so the public can participate, Zoom meetings. When would we, do you think we'd expect that there'd be a decision on that?

Mayor Teso: We still have our COVID ...

Mr. Luttrell: I understand, but ...

Mayor Teso: ... problem.

Mr. Luttrell: ... right now, right now, there's no difference if they can Zoom here, they should be, they should all do it in ...

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Mr. Luttrell: ... a regular meeting. So, I don't see increase in risk at all.

Mayor Teso: I know we have some issues with, well, last week, yeah, last week we had some problems with the transmission, ...

Mr. Luttrell: Okay.

Mayor Teso: ... I think, at some ...

Mr. Luttrell: (Inaudible) ...

Mayor Teso: ... point.

Mr. Luttrell: ... consideration for next week?

Mayor Teso: Hm?

Mr. Luttrell: Can you put it under consideration for next week? (Inaudible) move forward in the general idea or move backwards.

Mayor Teso: Yeah, I think we probably have to put it as an agenda item.

Mr. Luttrell: That's what I'm saying. Can we ...

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Mr. Luttrell: ... do that next week, please?

Mayor Teso: Sure.

Mr. Luttrell: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Well, two weeks from now.

Mr. Luttrell: Two weeks from now.

Mayor Teso: The next ...

Mr. Luttrell: Thank you, ...

Mayor Teso: ... meeting.

Mr. Luttrell: ... appreciate it.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Anybody else want to speak? If not, then we'll move onto Item #06.

**ITEM #06 – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS; FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Teso: Anyone have a current event they would like to speak on?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I have a Community Clean-up on the, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 and this is through Laura Conover, Attorney, Pima County Attorney's Office. They wanna come down and help South Tucson with Casa Maria and Galeria Mitotera and some other health organizations to come and do some clean-up, focusing mostly on the areas where drug paraphernalia may be left over that they want to pick up and, and take it out of the City so that you won't endanger innocent children out in the community.

Mayor Teso: Yeah, there's a number of things going on that day, right?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes. And then ...

Mayor Teso: Gotta kind of stay out of each other's way (inaudible).

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Vice-Mayor. I know you just pointed to me. I can help you with that report. Mayor, members of the Council, if I may, as Vice-Mayor just indicated, Pima County Attorney's Office has requested if they can come into South Tucson, I put a flier in front of you, for Community Clean-up. And we have tentatively found an area where they can start for the first clean-up. And we're looking at the South Tucson Housing Authority. Executive Housing Director Betty Villegas, we had a meeting this morning and identified there's a lot of trash in the area and unfortunately, there are needles in the area. And I think before we even get into like how Pima County Attorney's Office will be providing the equipment, they're gonna have staff on board (inaudible) any members of the community that would like to (inaudible) ask that they wear closed-toe shoes, masks are required, and water (inaudible) will be provided. Another event that will be taking place this weekend in front of City Hall is Equality Health Foundation will be in front of City Hall. They will be distributing notices throughout the community and hosting a COVID-19 swab testing. Equality Health Foundation has received a grant and they realize that Pima County is starting to reduce the testing for COVID-19, so they're gonna start off with City of South Tucson only and then they're gonna expand to the 85713 zip code as well as 85706. Again, it's this Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in front of City Hall. And also, this Saturday will be the second vaccination that took place at the Tucson Greyhound Park. That event will be at the Tucson Greyhound Park, hosted by the Pima County Health Department from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Those are the events for the weekend. Is that it, Vice-Mayor?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: You're welcome.

Mayor Teso: We also had the other event last weekend at the Housing Authority.

Ms. Moreno: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Which I think everybody showed up.

Ms. Moreno: Yes, there was 100% of those that received the first vaccine that were there last Saturday.

Mayor Teso: Right. Well, I think that was 71, I think that took the first vaccine and so, well, ...

Ms. Moreno: Right.

Mayor Teso: ... 71 showed up again. Very good. Okay. Do we have any future agenda items?

Councilman Romero: I'd like to bring to the Council's attention, on West 34<sup>th</sup>, that lady keeps coming over and complaining about the guys at 107 West 34<sup>th</sup>. I passed by there today. There's a whole bunch of people there, a bunch of drug dealing stuff going on. I think it's time that the City Attorney and the Chief stop kicking the can down the street, start doing something about it. It's getting old. These people have got a legitimate complaint and for some reason, nothing is getting done. So we need to address that and start getting something done over there. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: We might want to add Mr. Luttrell's item to the next agenda item, to the next meeting.

Ms. Moreno: Okay.

Mayor Teso: Let's see, what else do we have? Okay. Any other future agenda items?

(No other future agenda items from the Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Then moving onto Item #07.

#### ITEM #07 – CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, members of the Council. Thank you. Regarding the request from Dennis Luttrell to have the ability to livestream the Council meetings, we are looking into that, as we speak. I hope to have an update for you by the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. For now, our capabilities only allow the Zoom, so when we invite any members that are gonna make a presentation to Mayor and Council, or have any items, we can invite them through means of Zoom, but we have not yet discovered yet how we can do the livestream 'cause it will require installation of cameras and a lot more than, it's beyond my comprehension as far as IT stuff, but we definitely will get back with you with a report internally and then an update at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. I can't promise that (inaudible) will already be installed by the next Council meeting, but we'll let you know what it takes to be able to have it implemented.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Ms. Moreno: Also, as of the end of last calendar year, the Grant Writer position that we had on contract expired. And what I had been doing for the last couple of months is working on an opportunity for that line item to allow for, not only the elected officials, but department heads and staff to be able to have the services provided to those of us to include research from someone as a professional and possibly consultant to identify and pursue, and I'm gonna read off to you what I wrote because this is what I think would be most beneficial to the City, which will also include grant writing elements, but I've also identified (inaudible) potential new or enhanced revenue funding resources to benefit the overall operations of the City of South Tucson; developing former plan of action to assess the status of current intergovernmental and grant funding sources; identify potential changes in intergovernmental and grant funding sources, I said that; any current funding sources and identify new and other potential areas of intergovernmental and grant funding available to the City. A second item I think that we should include is conduct research to identify intergovernmental and grant funding resources required to support the funding needs and priorities of the City from various sources including federal, state, county, tribal, regional, and local funding sources (inaudible) public and private foundations, organizations and non-profit entities. Number three, specifically identify target and pursuit existing intergovernmental and grant, and direct grant funding resources which include, but are not limited to these service (inaudible) which, of course, our priorities, as always, economic development, community development, criminal justice/public safety resources and equipment, fire emergency medical services resources and equipment, public infrastructure, construction and maintenance for streets, roads, flood control, traffic lighting and amenities, and public facilities. Also identify, establish and maintain collaborative working relationships between representatives on a variety of federal, state, county, tribal, regional and local governmental organizations and agencies, as well with diverse community organizations to support intergovernmental and grant funding requests. So what I drafted so far as an R2 to hopefully post in the near future, I'll put it in all your boxes so you can review, come back to Mayor and Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting and get any feedback from you so we can see what is available for the City in this regard for more help beyond grant writing, reaching out to, like I mentioned, federal, state, and local government. That concludes my report, Mayor and Council.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: You're welcome.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Moving onto Item #08.

ITEM #08 – RESOLUTION NO. 21-05 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, (COST), APPROVING THE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION WITH PIMA COUNTY FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE PIMA COUNTY PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (PROGRAM)

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, members of the Council, thank you. We have here with us Kelly Griffith. She's visiting us through Zoom. Hi, Kelly. She's the Executive Director with the Center for Economic Recovery, as well as Alonzo Morado, who is here in the audience. He is the Community Engagement Coordinator with Primavera. As you mentioned, Mayor, this is the item where they have requested the support of the City of South Tucson

for the collaboration with Pima County for the delivery of preschool scholarship program. Our Finance Director, Lourdes Aguirre, worked closely with them on this item and therefore, I'd like her to provide you a summary. And if there's any further questions, we have both Kelly and Alonzo here to provide us with any more information. Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Good evening, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. You may have noticed as you read through this agenda item, there literally is no expense associated with this. It's merely an in-kind contribution and a formalization of the support and collaboration between the City of South Tucson and Pima County in the development of this program. With regards to the specifics, you may have read some of the information on the attachment that was included. And this was provided by Ms. Griffith. And she will give you some more details on that. So, I just wanted to let you know, really no expense above and beyond what we already have as a mode of outreach for South Tucson residents. We can make use of some of our resources that we currently have, such as our website and post information there, as well as relevant links. Ms. Griffith, if you would like to chime in.

Ms. Griffith: Thank you very much. I hope the audio is working well. I really appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal to you remotely. I live with somebody who takes care of people who are sick with COVID and I haven't had all my vaccine yet, so I didn't want to run the risk of inadvertently exposing anyone should I be an asymptomatic carrier. So, I wanted to be extra careful, so I really appreciate accommodating me remotely. And I apologize, I really wish I could be there in person to speak with you. This is really the, the culmination of many, many years of work, over five years of work, a half a year of listening sessions. We were almost to this point last year. Some of you may remember that I came in person with Alonzo to present last year before Mayor and Council. And then COVID happened and everything came to a halt. And then actually things went backward and there were many preschool providers who were not able to keep their doors open or keep their employees because of COVID. So, we had to not only begin again, but we had to begin again further behind than where we had started. But we have prevailed. And we are here today to, in some way, in celebration that Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to put two million dollars out of their General Fund, not their COVID Emergency Fund, but the General Fund dollars into their budget to award preschool scholarship for vulnerable children and families that are below 200% poverty levels. So, we have a marker in the budget, but one of the things that (inaudible) has asked the advocates like myself, who's been working in the community, is that we, we need to bring everybody together on this, that it's not just a Pima County go-it-alone moment. They would like to see other cities and towns in Pima County; they want to see the public schools; they wanted to see the philanthropic community; they wanted to see the business community; they wanted everyone to come together and work together and contribute to this preschool scholarship program so that it became and become everybody's program, not just Pima County's program. And so, we had a short window of time in order to make that happen. And so the time that, that they voted on that now, we have had less than a month, about a month, and we have about a month (inaudible) the city, I mean the Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry, draft his memo on the budget to the Board of Supervisors. And before he does that, we really need to demonstrate that this is a collaborative community-wide, region-wide effort. And that's why I'm standing here in my, on my porch, actually, before you asking for you to adopt this Resolution to collaborate with Pima County. I understand the realities, the budget realities, and really what we're asking you to do is the in-kind contribution and just to formally join in with this larger effort. And with that, I will stop talking and I'm happy to answer questions.



Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I just had a question like on, I don't know if you've seen the resolution, be it resolved, be it resolved, be it resolved. I'm talking about number three, and could you tell me, do you know anything at all about this person named Nicole Fyffe of Pima County?

Ms. Griffith: I'm very sorry, but I know that you're asking a question, but I ...

Councilwoman Rogers: You can't ...

Ms. Griffith: ... cannot, I ...

Councilwoman Roger: ... hear?

Ms. Griffith: ... could not hear what, what the words were.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Ms. Griffith: (Inaudible) your question (inaudible).

Ms. Aguirre: Kelly, the question comes ...

Ms. Griffith: Yes.

Ms. Aguirre: ... from Councilwoman Rogers. And it is in regards to Nicole Fyffe of Pima County Administration. Can you give us a little bit of information on her and what her role is in this?

Ms. Griffith: Most certainly. Mr. Mayor and Council, this, Nicole is an employee of the County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry. She's a Special Assistant. And she has been assigned, for the last couple of years, to work with a liaison with the Preschool Promise Coalition. It's a working group. And Nicole has been given the responsibility of helping to craft and draft the framework of get stakeholder input, do the research, and assist with that, what I was talking about was everybody coming together; the cities, and the schools, and actually, the state First Things First, and the regional First Things First. The philanthropic community, through the United Way, and (inaudible) her job is, my job is to get everybody pulling in the same direction and explain what's happening. Nicole Fyffe's job is to braid it altogether into a coherent format, and make a report to the County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry. And so, she is our point person in County Administration that is helping us put all of this together in a way that's sort of a package that can be then presented to the Board of Supervisors as part of the overall budget.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you very much, Kelly.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other questions?

Councilman Diaz: Does Mr. Alonso have any comments to make?

Mr. Morado: It's hard to follow Kelly. Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. My name is Alonso Morado and I'm the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Primavera Foundation here in South Tucson. And Kelly and I, actually, we get the same funding from the same grant that we get from Primavera, so we work together on many different projects. And this project is very special for me because, you know, the primary mission for the Primavera Foundation is the pathway out of poverty. And what we've been seeing for five years and even longer, is that so many of the children that are in low, very low income housing fall very far behind before they even get to kindergarten. And the reason that we had been wanting and pushing for a preschool where they would provide preschool for children of very low income people is because we want to make sure that the children that we work with, children all over this community and Pima County have the same advantages that any kid has anywhere from Pima County. And that's the reason that we're working towards this. It's been a long five years, but you know, the stars have lined up and it's been, it's been amazing to see Kelly and everybody else work on, on putting all these groups together and stuff. It's like having a bag of, of a bunch of cats and then try to line them up. It's, it's been hard, but we're to that point where we can come to you, to the Council to ask you to say yes, we want to participate because we want our kids to succeed in the future. So, that's all I have to say. If you have any questions, I'm willing to answer any questions you have.

Mayor Teso: I don't really have a question, but I do have a comment and basically, I know that with all this COVID and, and recently, you know, we've been delivering food boxes here and there, and stuff, and I got names from, of recipients of the food boxes, mostly from the police department, fire department and, you know, addresses, people to contact, you know, they felt needed food boxes and things. And just in contacting them, I know that, you know, sometimes, you know, the mothers of the children were gone from the house, they're on their way to work and sometimes when I called, you know, they, they turn around from who know where, they're already downtown or something, and turn around and come back so I could deliver the box. Or if that wasn't the case, you know, maybe one of the older siblings or something was taking care of little kids, you know, and they were almost like latchkey kids. Is that what they call 'em, latchkey? And, you know, I noticed that at several of the houses, you know, that I was delivering boxes to. And, you know, I just find that kind of concerning, you know. And certainly, you know, it's, it's an issue of where, you know, some of these kids would be better off if they were in some facility, you know, getting, you know, a reasonable education and, and, for preschool or, or kindergarten, that kind of situation, you know. But there's a lot of need out there.

Mr. Morado: Can I say something else?

Mayor Teso: Sure.

Mr. Morado: My, I have two daughters and my youngest daughter is a kindergarten teacher at Grijalva Elementary School. And so, she spent the last seven months teaching kids via computer. And the stories that she comes back with, you know, 'cause, you know, she's teaching kindergartners. But then they have kid brothers or sisters, younger brothers and sisters, that are getting into the cameras, stuff like this. And it's the children taking care of children.

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Mr. Morado: You know, because parents have to go to work and stuff like that. So, if we can get those kids into a preschool. I mean we're talking about three and four-year olds. It's just so beneficial, not just to the children, which it's gonna help 'em in the long run, but for families that are going to work and stuff like that because the decision to work or to stay home with the kids, it's a real tough one.

Mayor Teso: Yeah. Very tough.

Mr. Morado: Thank you for that, Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Yeah. Okay.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I have a question. Alonso, has there been a location where you want to conduct this, this like a preschool, or this day care area where you wanna teach all these kids to get a head start on their education?

Mr. Morado: We, we are, I'm gonna make sure that Kelly jumps in on this one. The question, Kelly, is, is there a location where we, we, we're gonna educate these kids and stuff like this? We're trying to work with so many different day care centers. And provide, we're looking for the best of them so that the kids get a real quality education from the very beginning. So, it's not gonna be all the day care centers that are in Pima County. We're gonna be looking for the ones that have the highest rating. And we go from there.

Mayor Teso: The five star.

Mr. Morado: Is it five star, Kelly, or?

Ms. Griffith: Yeah, so one of the things is we want it to be, we want the preschools that the children are getting scholarships for to be diverse and to be geographically in lots of different places so that families have choice. You may live one place and you may work somewhere else. And so, we want to make sure that the preschools that are eligible are, that they're diverse, that we've talked, for example, with Sunnyside and Sunnyside School is ready on day one to open up a classroom for preschool at Sunnyside. So, we're working with school districts. We're working with families, care providers who can sometimes provide a preschool experience in a family home, particularly mono-lingual Spanish-speaking family providers. Sometimes people don't work 9 to 5 jobs. Sometimes they work night jobs and they need a safe place for their children. But what all of these different places have in common is that they are a three, four, or five star rated, high quality preschool. That means they get evaluated and they have made significant investments in their teachers and in the learning environment to make the state's First Things First standard, or they are a nationally accredited preschool. There's one or two routes that you can go; you can go through First Things First and get your star rating and accreditation, or you can go through a national accreditation and they come in and, and, you know, they do a site (inaudible). So, there's, there's a standard and that definition comes straight out of State statute, of one of the two. But what we want to make sure is that they're a) high quality, b) they meet the needs of the family and the children, geographically, and also, timewise. And so we're really gonna have to invest, honestly, at probably in year two, we're looking at so some of that money, for example, that we may be asking from private donors and philanthropic sources through United Way or Community Foundation or whatever, we're gonna come in and ask them to invest in more preschools. And how (inaudible) preschools

that are maybe on the cusp of being able to qualify as a two, or they're (inaudible) a two star, or they're not quite there, and investing money in that preschool to bring them up to that standard so that we can increase capacity to bring on more preschools that are on that high quality. The reason we want high quality is because we know from many, many studies now (inaudible) that children who go to high quality preschools are starting kindergarten and first grade on the same level as their wealthier peers and they do just as well or better, go onto college, and do lots of other things if they get that quality, quality teachers, and so quality really matters.

Mr. Morado: So the thing is that we don't have specific areas that we're concentrating. We wanna make sure that they're spread out, diversified throughout the county and that we can get as many kids into them as we can. But no, we don't have any specific names to give you. But we will be fighting to make sure that it's across the board.

Ms. Griffith: Ocotillo, you know, the preschool at Sunnyside that is (inaudible) has a preschool. I mean we're gonna be investing in public preschools and having scholarships available to public preschools right away. There are three, four, and five star private preschools that they will be eligible and then there will be a preschool accredited through national standards. That will also be, there are family preschool providers that are also at that higher level. They will also be a part of that mix. So, we have a very diverse mix, group of preschools in Pima County. And those preschools will be eligible, if they have the capacity, they will be eligible for a certain number of scholarships that families can then bring their children to.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mr. Morado: And I want to thank the Council for considering this proposal. And thank you in advance for your support.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Ms. Griffith: And I would like to thank Alonso who has been such a steadfast, steady hand for me, personally and professionally, through this very, very long journey. Alonso, you are amazing and I really do appreciate all of your hard work on this.

Mayor Teso: Well, thank you, ...

Ms. Griffith: It's been a ...

Mayor Teso: ... Miss ...

Ms. Griffith: ... long road.

Ms. Griffith: Thank you, Ms. Griffith and Mr. Morado. Appreciate your bringing this to our attention and we'll definitely do what we can do.

Councilman Diaz: Mr. Mayor, if there's no more comments or, or speeches to be made, I'd like to make a motion.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilman Diaz: I move that Resolution No. 21-05 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, approving the support and collaboration with Pima County for the delivery of the Pima County Preschool Scholarship Program.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Mayor Teso: Okay. If there's no more discussion, we'll go to Roll Call.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.

Councilman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.

Councilwoman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Aye. Motion carries. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Moving onto Item #09.

#### ITEM #09 – UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION – FIRE PUMPER

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor and Council, as you just mentioned, this is an update and discussion on the fire pumper. I know you heard the speech from the Fire Department and well deserved, they really need, urgently need a fire apparatus. And we received the okay from Mayor and Council to go shopping. Capt. Luna is here, and Chief Amado, to help provide you with the options that, that are presented here in your agenda. And also, our Finance Director, Lourdes Aguirre, can break down those amounts and the financing part of it.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, City Manager. Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, so after the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, we kind of regrouped and took up the project. I think that this best summarizes it, just like when you're looking to buy a vehicle, there's a lot of specifications, you know, that you look into, but what we're highlighting on this, really easy, simple follow table is the most important aspect that we're looking for. We know we can't afford a brand new pumper because a brand new pumper runs around \$800,000, close to a million, brand new. We're looking at really good refurbished options. These are certified refurbished options.

When we started looking for a fire pumper, we were looking in the range of \$225,000, to \$250,000, but really, there wasn't any real good options. So, we increased our threshold to \$350,000. And so what you all were provided with in the packet with a listing of seven, seven different options. And so this table right here just brings it all close together, side-by-side comparisons for you, along with the pricing range for them. As of, I believe it was last week, Friday, Friday morning, two of them had already been sold, two of the seven. So, you're looking at five options. Based on the criteria that the Fire Department is looking at, there's two, two of them that are really appealing. And you can see the price right there. They're around the \$300,000 price range. With regards to procurement, the City went ahead and acquired the services of a very well known broker to help find equipment because, again, we're not buying brand new equipment. So it's, you know, the challenge of finding equipment that fits the City's needs. Of course, based on the City's size, the volume, how many times, you know, the, how many calls, things of that nature. With regards to financing options, we've received quite a bit of feedback from the financing institutions. And essentially, on a range from \$300,000 to \$350,000, with a \$150,000 down payment, they're offering an interest rate of about 3% and that would leave us with a payment, an average payment of around \$35,000 a year, which is manageable, is reasonable. Okay? So, based on your all's direction this evening, then that will allow us to go ahead and look further into the financing option for the equipment, okay, of the City's choice. So, I'm gonna go ahead and turn it over to Chief Amado for more information.

Chief Amado: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, as the Finance Director stated, we had enlisted the services of a broker, but let me clarify that there were no upfront costs. Okay? If we make a purchase, he gets paid. If we don't purchase, he doesn't get paid. That's just his cost of doing business and the chances that he takes. But this is obviously something, as you're well aware of, that we've been working on for some time. Last year sometime, at one of the meetings, I submitted to you a Fire Department assessment, pointing out some critical needs. One of those was, of course, equipment, along with staffing. Number one, of course, being a fire apparatus, a fire truck. Otherwise known here as a fire pumper. So, obviously, that is a big task for one or two people to take and we used to use Fire Equipment out of Phoenix as the broker. They work with fire departments in the Phoenix metro area and actually throughout the State. They came recommended. They were able to narrow it down to what our needs are, in our price range. And as the Finance Director stated, the first range that we gave them, there was just really nothing available, or nothing in better shape than what we have now, for our needs. We're a 1.2 square mile City, but we're not rural. We're urban. We have 114 speed bumps in the City. We have a lot of stopping and going, so that is all gonna play into the equipment and what kind of equipment we need so that we're not looking down the road another five or ten years to purchase another one. Unless it, God forbid, catches fire or something. Anyways, so what we looked at, just to, I'll speak briefly on it and then I'll turn it over to Capt. Luna. When looking for fire trucks, we looked at not just year and mileage, but how many hours they had on them and where were they used before. Were they used in a rural area, flat area? Were they used in an urban area? That's why you may seem, in your fire truck, with maybe a little more miles, for less money. But you see an older fire truck with maybe not as many hours or miles, with, for more money. But we were able to get it down to that range of about three hundred, three-thirty. And even then, even then, it was tricky because getting a fire truck for under \$400,000 or \$500,000 is a challenge. It is. That's why we went through a broker. And he did look nationwide and found a couple at a, at a dealer called Brindlee in Alabama, that may suit our needs. Of course, it hasn't been inspected on site yet. So that would be the next step in moving forward, if Council should approve, is actually, at their expense, having our mechanics and Capt. Luna fly out there to look and prod the equipment before we purchase. Little side story: This afternoon, one of our former retired police

officers came by and he was asking me how things were going. And I talked a little bit about the challenges in the Fire Department. And he said, "Well, I remember when we had like twelve, you know, fire fighters." I said, "Well, not any more." And we talked about the equipment. And he brought up an interesting question. He said, "Well, why have the equipment if you don't have the staffing for it?" I said, "You know, that's a fair question and it would be a fair question if we didn't have a Fire Department. The issue is whether we have one fire fighter or twelve fire fighters, we're still responding to fires. We are still responding to medical calls. In other words, we still have a Fire Department. As long as we have a Fire Department, we have to have some kind of equipment that works. The worst thing that could happen to a resident and to the City is to have a truck responding, whether it's with one fire fighter or more, to a call and it breaks down and they don't get there. Whether it's a medical call or whether it's a fire call." I understand the question, I do. And in some ways, it's a case of the tail wagging the dog. But that's where we're at right now. As long as we maintain a Fire Department, we're gonna have to equip it in order to minimize liability issues in regards to health and safety, and in regards to lawsuits for the City. So, with that said, I'm gonna have Capt. Luna come up and just spend a few minutes in regards to talking about, since he does actually operate these things, talk a little bit about the operation and expand a little bit more on what we were looking for.

Capt. Luna: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, thank you for listening to us. The Chief pretty much summed it up as far as, in a nutshell there, of our needs, and you heard it before, and what we need. Just a couple of things I'll add and that's gonna pretty much do it for me, as far as comparisons, as the Chief was saying, what we have now is we're looking at when we start getting into engine hours and mileage, that type of thing, it's similar to vehicle but it's a little more in detail as far as engine hours. For example, one of the trucks we're gonna be looking at, engine hours are about 2,000 hours on that. And so when you're looking at fire trucks and you're looking at, when it gets into the 5,000 or 6,000 engine hour miles, well, you kinda like, kinda weighing stuff out, where one of these trucks, a couple of 'em actually, are less than that; mileage is the same. Right now, on our truck we have 186,000 on that truck. And on one of these trucks, or a couple of 'em, there's less than 50,000 miles. So, obviously, it's a lot better. Engine hours on one of the trucks is at 16,000 and that's kind of unheard of in that regard. So, but it's still running, pieced together, but we're still making it happen. So, and the only other thing that I'll add is that when we purchase something like this as far as the type of vehicle we're getting since Tucson Fire does respond with us at times, they like to see a good, better-looking, not a better-looking truck, but a better operating truck, and then they want one that's gonna be compatible. So that's what we're looking at as well, as far as the compatibility of the trucks being able to work and function as, as they do, and without any issues. So, a couple of the trucks that we're looking at here were commercial cab that really doesn't fit in with what they have. So, we look at that as well. So, that's kind of what we configured and hopefully, we, we go out there and get something and make the citizens and you all happy, and us happy, and, and have a better operating vehicle out there. So, that's all I have. Do you have any questions?

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, just even one, but the two things that I had studied, first of all (inaudible) volume versus velocity. But at any rate, would you say in South Tucson, just, you know, experience being here, that the Fire Department acts more as an ambulance than as putting out fires?



Capt. Luna: Well, what we do is it's more of a rescue than it is an ambulance service. So, the majority of our calls throughout the year, we average about 2,000 calls a year, are medical calls and whatnot. And fires, 10%, 5%, 20%. The last couple of years, we've had plenty of fires, as you know. But, so what we do as first responders, we're the first one on scene. So, what our citizens see in the fire truck is we serve as a rescue truck. So, we're the first ones there. And we're able to help out with the EMT's, the education that we have in medics education, to keep somebody alive, to get there, to get there immediately, three to five minutes is our average time to get there, whereas our, the ambulance company that comes in, at times, it's anywhere from ten to thirty minutes. So, if our citizens, if we don't have a fire department, and we're relying on outside entities to come in and waiting ten to thirty minutes and somebody's having a true emergency like a heart attack, well, then they're gonna be waiting that long because that's as close as they can be. So, we're there first and we keep them alive with the equipment that we have in our fire truck.

Councilwoman Rogers: Well, I'm just asking the question 'cause I've been here about 30 years and I know that a lot of the Spanish Trail area is all medical. You probably know that.

Capt. Luna: Yeah.

Councilwoman Rogers: Pretty much.

Capt. Luna: Yeah.

Councilwoman Rogers: And I don't know why we can't own an ambulance instead of a large fire truck for medical issues.

Capt. Luna: Well, with, at times throughout the past, I've been here a long time and they looked into doing something like that. But it became, it was a bigger issue. Without going into a lot of detail, as far as gaining what's called a CON, and it was a lot of legal stuff going on, you know, at that, at that time, and also, to gain that and to get that certification or certificate, it, there's a lot involved to do that. So, that's why we, we're, we're remaining how we are now.

Councilwoman Rogers: That's why they need new fire trucks.

Capt. Luna: New fire trucks to get to people that are in dire need if they're having a heart attack and fires as well. Because we still do get there first before Tucson Fire does. And they're pretty quick. They have stations right around us. But we actually start the operation initially and, and have a lot more success.

Ms. Moreno: And also, if I may add, Capt., and correct me but TFD comes down when we have a structure fire or if you have like a brush fire in an alley, you need your apparatus in your Fire Department, fire equipment to get those fires out.

Capt. Luna: Very good point, thank you. Thank you. Yeah, so a lot of times we get a lot of brush fires, a lot of brush fires, a lot of car fires, and a lot of times when we show up there, you don't get response from Tucson Fire with that. So, we show up and they're next to a house and the house is catching on fire. So we're there



very quickly. Thank you for bringing that up. Three to five minutes and putting the fire out as well as whatever structure catches on fire.

Councilwoman Rogers: And then the other question I had is when I was studying all these, I just didn't understand what about what are the stats that we now have. When I was reading their stats, you know, what's the stats of what we have?

Capt. Luna: Are you talking about the ...

Councilwoman Rogers: (Inaudible) ...

Capt. Luna: ... stats having to ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... (inaudible) ...

Capt. Luna: ... do with the ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... (inaudible).

Capt. Luna: ... vehicle itself? Or stats having to do ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Stats ...

Capt. Luna: ... with ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... of the, our ...

Capt. Luna: ... specifications?

Councilwoman Rogers: ... Fire Department. Yeah.

Capt. Luna: Yeah, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: They weren't ...

Capt. Luna: ... so ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... in here so I only don't know ...

Capt. Luna: Yeah, so ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... how ...

Capt. Luna: ... I, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... this goes.

Capt. Luna: ... as I did mention, compared to the trucks that you're looking at, you have two, 2,000 hours of engine hours, and we have 16,000. And mileage, 186,000 on our truck and one or two of those trucks is 24,000 and I believe forty-some thousand. So, that would be the specifics that we're looking at as far as having a better vehicle, lasting a lot longer, in my opinion, and according to the stats.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay, thank you.

Capt. Luna: You're welcome.

Councilman Romero: I got a comment. You guys ain't gonna like it.

Capt. Luna: Okay.

Councilman Romero: We're gonna spend anywhere from \$298,000 to \$330,000 for a fire engine, for a pumper. The only complaint that I have, sure you only have two fire fighters. Why does it take two fire fighters and a pumper that's gonna cost us \$330,000 to go down to Whataburger. Why can't you say, "Hey, I'm going to Whataburger. What do you want, Manny, I'll go get it. We got a little, we got a truck there. I'll go to the truck, you stay here. If we have something, call me and we'll meet."

Capt. Luna: Okay. I have an answer ...

Councilman Romero: That's ...

Capt. Luna: ... for you.

Councilman Romero: ... the complaint I have because I've always seen you guys riding around, up and down. I know you guys gotta be with the equipment. But does it make any sense to have all of you guys? Doesn't, can't you guys take notes and say, "I want a hamburger. I want a chick fillet."

Capt. Luna: Sure, we could. But, as you mentioned, as I've said before, you start separating the crew and there's three fire fighters, actually. So, even though there's two full-time people, there's three fire fighters on that truck at all times. So once you separate somebody, it does delay operations if we get a fire or an emergency call, whether it's medical or a fire. So, with that, we don't always do that. So, every ti-, once in a while, you'll see that happening. We go out there. We're coming back from a call. We go get fuel, like we need to. We (inaudible) try to stop off, or go where we need to go when we're out already. We don't just get in the truck and start it up and take off if we don't need to. So, that's the biggest thing.

Councilman Romero: You know, I'm always riding around town. And forever seeing you guys jump in the fire engine and go out there to the, to McDonald's or wherever, and get something to eat. You know, apparently somebody can order ahead and have one guy, have two guys stay here in case there's an emergency. We're not using this \$330,000 vehicle to go pick up lunch. That's the complaint I have.

Capt. Luna: Correct. And I agree. And that's fine. I mean I (inaudible) with you. I'm sorry, but I understand, I understand what you're saying. But again, we don't always just jump in the truck just to go get something to eat. We, we bring our own food a lot of the times as well. So every once in a while we'll do that. So, and that's, and that's what happens. Every once in a while, we don't like to separate the crew because of that emergency situation. We can't have, we're down to three guys. We need four. With three guys, we need them together if there's gonna be an emergency call. And any kind of call.

Councilman Romero: You know, (inaudible) ...

Capt. Luna: And you'd be surprised that a lot of times when we're out there, we go into McDonald's or we go into Walgreens or wherever we go, that they're happy to see us. Some of the citizens here are like, "I'm glad to see you guys. I'm happy to see you guys out here." So, you know, there's other opinions out there.

Councilman Romero: Oh, yeah, but I can, I can say, you know, we're spending a lot of money on this thing. And we can be a little bit more careful on how we're using it.

Capt. Luna: Sure, absolutely.

Councilman Romero: That's the only thing I'm saying. That's great if you guys gotta go (inaudible) but to go down to the golden arches, you know, you're taking a \$330,000 vehicle to go get a Quarter Pounder or something. That just don't jive right with me. That's the only problem that I have for you guys.

Capt. Luna: Okay. Anything else?

Mayor Teso: I have a question. I know whichever one of these vehicles is selected, will we still need to make modifications of some sort that might raise the price a ...

Capt. Luna: Very little, ...

Mayor Teso: ... little bit?

Capt. Luna: ... if any, because a lot of, in fact, I'm glad you brought that up, sir. In fact, the trucks that we're looking at, we made sure that they had things that these trucks do not. That they needed modifications, but we never did it. So, these trucks come, actually, with a couple of more features on them that these trucks didn't have. So, if anything, very minor, very minimal.

Mayor Teso: Yeah, the only thing I, yeah, I know, and I was looking at some of the different things that, items or whatever that, you know, are associated with some of these trucks and their descriptions, but I noticed, you know, that some of these have like 750 gallon tanks. And other ones had 900 gallons. I just don't, you know, is one more important than another or ...

Capt. Luna: Well, if you think about it in water, so one has 750. In fact, these trucks, one has 750, one has 1,000. So, when we initially go to a fire, we don't immediately connect to the hydrant, right? We go out ...

Mayor Teso: Right. Okay.

Capt. Luna: ... there. If it's a brush fire, especially the brush fire, we're out, kind of out away, far away from a hydrant, ...

Mayor Teso: Right.

Capt. Luna: ... then, obviously, if we have more water, we have a better chance of turning it out.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Capt. Luna: We always, knock on wood, we've always, never needed it but we've gotten very close to ...

Mayor Teso: Right.

Capt. Luna: ... running out of water. So, that's, that's the difference between more water ...

Mayor Teso: Yeah, and that's basically the answer I was looking for, you know, that, you know, the, what's the difference between the 750 ...

Capt. Luna: Yeah, so it's just the fact that we have more water to, to do, put out what we need to put out.

Mayor Teso: And I'd also like to ask, how equipped, water-wise, like fire hydrants and things, is the City of South Tucson?

Capt. Luna: Oh, the City has plenty. We're, there's only one or two areas, but other than that, we're pretty much, we have hydrants, plenty of hydrants to ...

Mayor Teso: Do they ...

Capt. Luna: ... do the job that we need to do.

Mayor Teso: Are there codes for that in terms of how many fire hydrants we're supposed ...

Capt. Luna: Like in a ...

Mayor Teso: ... to have?

Capt. Luna: ... municipality, there typically is, but we have, we have, we meet the code, we meet the, we have plenty of hydrants in the City of South Tucson.

Mayor Teso: Okay. The other, I guess one other question, please, we're talking about, you know, having, you know, speed bumps, regulating part of the portion as to, you know, of the quality of the vehicle that we need, how easy would it be to get rid of some speed bumps? I don't know how ...

Capt. Luna: To get rid ...

Mayor Teso: ... (inaudible).

Capt. Luna: ... of some speed bumps? Well, I would happen to agree with you. I don't know that we need that many.

Mayor Teso: No, because I remember I was, I was, you guys passed in front of my house one day and, you know, we had the Street Alliance and all that stuff and they had all those little barricades and all of that. And as I came out, I heard, you know, I heard the siren going on. You know, so I just came out to take a look, you know, and when I did, you know, I seen people backing up and.

Capt. Luna: Yeah, so I ...

Mayor Teso: That, ...

Capt. Luna: ... mean ...

Mayor Teso: ... that doesn't seem to be like a very good emergency type of a ...

Capt. Luna: Yeah, South Tucson ...

Mayor Teso: ... procedure.

Capt. Luna: ... (inaudible) a lot of barriers are kind of tight-fitting and stuff, so, and in fact, this truck is, I don't know if, I don't want to confuse you too much, but the wheel base of this truck is designed a little bit better than one of the trucks we have out there, which is the wheel base is a lot longer.

Mayor Teso: Right, right.

Capt. Luna: So we had a lot of issues with that. Turning in tight quarters. Where these, these trucks here, they have a lot less problems getting in and out of areas. So, hopefully, you won't see that.

Mayor Teso: Yeah, it'll save you from backing up and going this way and that way ...

Capt. Luna: Yeah, that was ...

Mayor Teso: ... (inaudible).

Capt. Luna: ... 'cause the truck is so, that, that particular truck is so long ...

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Capt. Luna: ... that it doesn't turn that well.

Mayor Teso: Oh, okay.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I have a question. Which one would you pick?

Capt. Luna: Just sight unseen, because like it's better to see it, ...

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yeah.

Capt. Luna: ... I would pick the 2008. The 2008 Velocity Rescue Pumper.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Capt. Luna: And the other thing, just off of the term rescue, that truck has features in there that we could have more rescue equipment. Like, again, we do a majority of, of those type of calls. So, that's why I would pick that one. And then it has the 1,000 gallon tank, more than the other one. So, there's things that we looked at that fit us better.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Is it wide enough like the truck that, that you wanted, a wider truck so you guys can ...

Capt. Luna: Oh, so, yeah, ...

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... be comfortable?

Capt. Luna: ... so that, good point there. It's called commercial pumper and that one out there that doesn't turn well, also doesn't fit us well because it has that front end.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: And then the other issue we discussed is to make sure that this brand new truck has a water hose in the front, ...

Capt. Luna: Yes.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... in the front bumper so that you can just go straight to the fire without ...

Capt. Luna: And again, that's one that this truck has, exactly, exactly, sir, is that, yeah, that makes it a lot better to, to pull out the line, basically, to put out a car fire, brush fire, something really fast right now instead of pulling that bumper line.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yeah.

Capt. Luna: It's a lot more difficult with these trucks. So this is a lot better, a lot better truck.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Well, that's the one I like. I don't know why.

Mayor Teso: Sight unseen.

Capt. Luna: Sight unseen, yeah.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I was hoping that you would go, we were mentally communicating. We had the same, same vehicle ...

Capt. Luna: Oh, yeah.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... but it ...

Capt. Luna: Looking at that.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... worked out.

Capt. Luna: That seems to be the best truck mileage-wise, engine-wise, all the features that it has seems to be the better truck.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you very much, Captain.

Capt. Luna: Okay.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Capt. Luna: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay. So staff needs some guidance, direction and ...

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, members of the Council. So, we're asking Mayor and Council to direct staff to proceed with the recommendation of Capt. Luna. And I know it's the Chief's concurrence as well as the Finance Director to move forward with travelling to Alabama, right?

Capt. Luna: Yes.

Ms. Moreno: To look at the 2008 (inaudible) Velocity Rescue Pumper. And that would include Capt. Luna, Andy Corona, who is retired Tucson Fire mechanic who works on our current 25-year old apparatus. So he will be going as well as our City Mechanic, Richard Bracamonte.

Mayor Teso: Okay. One thing I noticed in there and it says something about, you know, like location and it says "south" on it. And I guess maybe that's Alabama. I'm not sure. But do fire engines, are they basically, do they have under quoting and all that kind of stuff? I mean like you got one from the north or something where they, you have snow and they throw salt on it and all that stuff? Are they protected?

Capt. Luna: Yeah, so what they do, and we've been working with Chris from the broker, from this broker's house, or company, that he, he knows the history of these trucks. So he talks about where they come from (inaudible) corrosion, that type of thing. So he specifically states those types of things in there as well.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Then if there's no other discussion, Mr. Romero?

Councilman Romero: I'm gonna piss you guys off again. I don't see why we need Richard Bracamonte to go down. He never works on the fire engine. Why don't we have Mr. Luna and Mr. Corona go down? I've yet to see Richard work on a fire engine.

Mayor Teso: Chief?

Chief Amado: I think initially it was just going to be, I remember conversations Capt. Luna and Mr. Andy Corona, somewhere in the discussion it was felt that having our own mechanic also go down with them. And I agree, he doesn't work on fire trucks. Would also be a good idea as a representative of the shops here. Now there's no charge for any of that. So, whether we fly two down there or three down there, the broker is paying for it all. They also pay per diem. They also pay the hotel. So they feed 'em. They spend a whole day out there, so they fly like the night before, spend the whole day out there reviewing it, driving it. Then they fly back the next day. Again, if we buy it, you know, I heard some travel times being made over here. So, if we buy it, great. If we don't, we're not out any cost. So, I just want to be sure to clarify that.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Chief Amado: We're not spending any money on this thing. So far on this search, we have not spent any money. Just time.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: And if I may add, Mayor, and it's also good to have another set of eyes. I know that mechanic Bracamonte is not an expert in, you know, fire department apparatus, but he is our tenured mechanic on our entire fleet. So I think it's good to have a second person just to make sure that, you know, everything is covered from front to, front to the end. And Lourdes and I were having a conversation during the week for, I think we'll put together, if we can find a document where we can have them have a checklist to make sure that they cover everything in the entire apparatus so that when they're there, they don't forget to check whatever it is that that list would include.



Mayor Teso: Right.

Ms. Moreno: So we'll look for something to send them with so they come back with, or they go with homework and come back with a report.

Mayor Teso: Good. Okay. Given that, do we have a motion?

Councilman Romero: So moved.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: We're moving three bodies back east.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I second it.

Councilman Romero: I don't have my papers with me so I can't tell you exactly what it is.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I'll read the motion.

Mayor Teso: Alright.

Councilman Romero: Read it, well.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Okay, hold on.

Councilwoman Rogers: It didn't ask for a motion. It asks for.

Mayor Teso: Excuse me?

Councilwoman Rogers: (Inaudible) agenda item. So there's no need for a vote or a motion. But it's study and direction. That's what we've told the people, the public, ...

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... direction. There is no need for a motion (inaudible).

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Well, we've gotta give 'em the ...

Councilwoman Rogers: You can ...

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... guideline.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... direct them as Mayor.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Not necessarily. It has to be a motion, but we have to give 'em the guidance ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Right.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... in order to ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Right. The Mayor can direct whatever he ...

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... (inaudible).

Mayor Teso: Then I guess go ahead with the procedures that you set out about going out to the south and inspecting these vehicles and seeing, you know, bringing back the information that you get from that to Council. Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Do we have a, a motion to adjourn from Regular Session and convene into the Housing Board Session?

Councilwoman Rogers: So moved.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Mr. Romero.

Councilman Romero: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.

Councilwoman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez. Mr. Lopez.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Aye. We are now in Housing Governing Board Session. Moving onto Item #10 is the Housing Report.

ITEM #10 – HOUSING REPORT

Ms. Moreno: Yes Mayor, members of the Council, the Housing Director is providing you with some handouts on her report. As you know, Betty Villegas was hired at the beginning of the year and needless to say, there's many challenges, I think, that she's discovered at the Housing Authority. Prior to us hiring her, you all heard my reports to you as well as the previous Housing Director, as well as the previous Housing Director bring to your attention the areas of attention that the Housing Authority needs. Also, in my conversations with the HUD Office and Margaret Skiffer (ph), it's no secret that our Housing Authority is right now categorized as being a troubled Housing Authority. So, Betty Villegas, who has been consumed with addressing those issues, her and I talk several times a week and she's very, very busy with, you know, bringing those needs up to standard. And the ultimate goal is to make the City of South Tucson Housing Authority, I think, the Housing Authority with, as the example Housing Authority throughout the region. And I know that Betty, if anybody can do it, she's the best person for the City. She's going to provide you with an in-depth report on what she's done throughout the last couple of months. There is one item following her report that's going to require Council action, which is the Fair Market Rents and then at the next Regular Council meeting, the information she's providing you with at this meeting, will be placed on the agenda for Council action.

Ms. Villegas: Thank you. Good evening, Mayor and members of the Council. Although right now you are my Board of Commissioners, so thank you for allowing me this opportunity to be here with you today. I was hoping that I would have a lot more for you to approve tonight, but as you see in my letter, I first want to say that I was overly optimistic when I first got here, thinking I could have much more accomplished by now. But I soon realized that we could only do what we can do within the timeframe available. The day-to-day operations are very time consuming, but we are making headway on catching up on many levels. The pandemic has provided additional barriers and put further pressure on all of us. We've had five deaths in our complex since November 2020. We know three of them were from COVID and the other two from natural causes. But we persevere and are working hard to get our (inaudible) compliance with HUD standards. I'm submitting the first Board report as the Executive Director that will give you an overview of our accomplishments, shortfalls, and some future items that I'll be bringing to you for approval and consideration. While I cannot discuss specifics about these items due to me not getting them on the agenda, I would like to give you a brief summary of what you can expect will be on the future agendas in April and May. I will make sure that you get final draft of the items that require your review and approval. Some of these items include the following: The '20-'24 Five Year Agency and Capital Fund Plan will have new program items for you all to consider. I will be asking you as the Board Commissioners for your feedback on the final draft, after which I will need to solicit public comment and publish a draft plan in the local newspaper for 45 days. I have been working with some U of A grad and undergrad students from the Public Health College who have helped me create a survey we are currently distributing to our residents. I have distributed the survey to all of you in your packets tonight for you to look at the questions that we're asking of all of our residents. The data collected will be used for future resident programs, programming support, and feedback from (inaudible) for a complex common spaces and the individual units. Another item is to discuss updating and changes to our outdated Board of Commissioner bylaws. They have not been updated since 1969. They're a little outdated and HUD has required us to update them, so I'm working on that as well. Discuss and possible action to appoint a Resident Commissioner, a HUD PHA requirement for all commissioned bodies. I have been talking with a potential person interested, although he will need to get clearance from his immediate supervisor before coming before you for your consideration. The requirement is that this person must be a resident of our either Section 8 Housing or our Low Rent Public Housing. And he will sit with you as a Commissioner, or she, and we may go with an interim Commissioner and then as we get more engaged with our community, my

hope is that I can bring some leaders from our community and provide them that opportunity for not only for them to empower them, but also to become leaders within their own space. So, I've also included a draft internal finance control write-up and it's in your, it's in your packet. And I'm currently working on this with our Finance Director, HUD and our fee accountant (inaudible) representative from (inaudible), which is changing to MRI. So, this is just a draft. It's something that was provided to me from our technical support staff at HUD. I've reviewed it and I'm asking for our Finance Director to review it with me, and this is so that we can have really clear defined rolls to make sure that there are checks and balances, that not one person is responsible for everything. And it's very important that we do that. I'm also going to ask, at one of the next meetings, approval of our PHA budget for 2021 that was never, it was never done. It was supposed to be done in, by June 30 of 2020, and it has never been done and we were not made aware that it wasn't until recently. So, we're working with our, again, our fee accountant and with our Finance Director to get that sooner rather than later, or we may end up having to approve the prior year, the 2021, and the '21-'22 together. I'm not sure yet how that's going to work. We are updating the PHA, the Public Housing Authority, when I say PHA, just, for those of you, Procurement Policy, which will address many of your concerns about using locally owned businesses and vendors. I read the last minutes from Miss Stacy Gibson, the minutes from her meeting, and I saw a lot of concerns, conversation about that. And I want you to know that that is a big concern of mine as well. And it's important for us to, to try to keep the business within our 1.2 square miles when possible. So, I did ask City Manager to provide me with a list of all licensed companies that offer services and products that we need and that we use. And I did receive that today. Another one is to discuss the occupancy and vacant units for our Low Rent Program and have developed a spreadsheet, which you have in your packet, that I will present with a list of all our current vacant units with the status of their condition and when we can expect to lease them up. Discussion on the Housing Voucher Program, Section 8, I will discuss some proposed plans which will potentially help us utilize all of our HUD allocated vouchers within three to five years. We have 132 vouchers available and we only use 74 of our own vouchers. Discuss and possible action to approve the mitigation plan to address the Corrective Action Plan that HUD has provided me. It's a plan, I think you've seen this plan before, that I think there's been a few of these plans over the years that you've had to deal with. And so hopefully, this will be one of the last for us to work on. So, I have provided HUD with status updates for these items. As you recall, it must be approved by you all since this has been an ongoing issue. At our next meeting, I will go through each of these items so that you all know precisely what and where the deficiencies are and what we must do to get back to a performing Public Housing Authority. The last two and a half months have proven challenging, yet rewarding. Challenging because there's a lot that must be done to streamline and stay current on the daily management and operations rather than constantly having to work on the necessary and incomplete work we are trying to catch up. It is rewarding because we know that our jobs have a purpose and an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. HUD's priority is to provide safe, decent and sanitary affordable housing for low income residents. As I started work on our five-year agency plan, one of the first items required to state our mission. I took it upon myself to evaluate the mission for this complex, and the following will require your feedback. Here is the draft mission statement, which will also need your approval at a future meeting: "The South Tucson Housing Authority's mission is to provide low income families with safe, decent, sanitary, and equitable, affordable housing; encourage and assist residents with accessing support services, programs and resources that offer opportunity for upward economic mobility that will improve the quality of their lives." My great staff and I have a lot of work ahead of us. I believe we will get there. With your support and guidance as our Board of Commissioners, I believe we will not only make this a performing PHA, but we can strive to make it a high performing PHA. I commit to you that I will give you all the information and tools you need to keep abreast of

what is happening with the PHA, and as soon as it is safe to do so, I encourage you to come and tour our complex, look at a few of our vacant units, and get to know our staff and our residents. So, I provided you with a copy of the survey so that, again, you can look at the questions that we asked. And we have gotten some responses back already. And then I also included the internal control policy, all in draft, and the vacant unit list. And where you see modernization, that means that those need complete overhaul, so we're gonna take 'em offline so that they don't count against us and we can start working on them. I also realize that we, all of our ADA compliant units, all the ones that are supposed to be accessible, have not been modernized since they were built and therefore, are no longer compliant. So, none of them have roll-in showers. They all have bathtubs, for one. So, one of the things that we're gonna start doing is as they become available, we will start converting the bathtub into roll-in showers for our tenants, residents that need that accessibility. So, at this time, if you, I believe that I did get one item on the agenda that's really important because Fair Market Rents have gone up. And every year, we're supposed to get 'em approved by you and they haven't been approved. So, I was able to get them on the agenda and I'm not sure what, do you lead that or I lead that?

Ms. Moreno: I can do it, that's fine.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Ms. Moreno: Are you done with your report (inaudible) to the next ...

Ms. Villegas: Yeah.

Ms. Moreno: ... item on the agenda?

Ms. Villegas: I'm done with the report. I don't think I can solicit any questions or anything, right, 'cause it's not on the agenda, or I'm not sure how that protocol works.

Ms. Moreno: I don't see why not (inaudible).

Mr. Yu: If they're general questions (inaudible).

Board member R. Romero: I noticed there's three units that were COVID deaths. Are your employees, are they certified to go in there, clean that up without risking themselves or their families when they get out of there, or do we have a company that comes in and cleans those because of the COVID?

Ms. Villegas: We have both. What we did is recently we had one where there were a lot of, there was a lot of bodily fluids in the room. And so, we did have to bring in a bio-hazard cleaning company to come and totally clean, clean that apartment out. It cost us \$9,000 to do it. So, before I got there, the prior Director had purchased a, what do you call it, a, a tank, and a Hazmat and, and then our Maintenance Supervisor purchased a Hazmat suit and he is, our Maintenance Supervisor is comfortable going in with the (inaudible) and spraying down and letting it sit there and then before anybody else goes in. But I can tell you that we do have one of our, our employees right now, right after I got here, he, he was going in and out of there. I don't think he was going in safely, but because he did contract COVID, he was on a ventilator and he, he's in the hospital, and is

still in rehab now. Thank God he's off of the ventilator, from what we understand, but he, they say he's gonna be okay. I don't know if he'll be able to come back to work.

Board member R. Romero: The only reason I bring that up is because of the liability. We gotta be ...

Ms. Villegas: Yeah.

Board member R. Romero: ... real careful with that.

Chairman Teso: Yeah.

Ms. Villegas: Right. Right. And right ...

Board member R. Romero: Thank you.

Ms. Villegas: ... now, all of us are, have had the vaccine, except for a couple of our maintenance people that are refusing it, and that's a whole different discussion, I think, for us, for you all, actually, to make some decisions on how you're gonna handle employees that don't want to get vaccinated.

Board member R. Romero: Can we have 'em sign a form that's releasing us from any liability? That's something we can ask Mr. Yu on.

Ms. Villegas: Well, that's an (inaudible) another conversation for a whole different meeting, but it is one I would recommend you look at what the County is doing as well, you know. They're, they already started to address this issue.

Board member R. Romero: Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Board member Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have about maybe three questions if you could answer them very briefly. One could probably be last, but as a new person here and maybe just a few months, etcetera, at the end of my other two questions, perhaps you could answer, or respond, or tell what you, as a hired person would expect of your Commission. That's one question. The other question, in the past, when we had Alan who was the resident, to my knowledge when there's, I used to be Housing, HUD used to require that the residents, not the boss or the paid people, pick the residents that represents them. Is that still true?

Ms. Villegas: It is, but when we, we've asked our residents and no one has really stepped up and so HUD says that if nobody steps up, then you can, you know, try to solicit, if you will, and that is why I'm making a recommendation that we have an interim resident commissioner while we do, while we are able, and it's really hard right now to engage, you know, with anybody. And so, I'm hoping and the survey has questions in there that, hopefully, I can identify who's interested, who wants to be involved, right? So it's just a temporary assignment, if you will, and then it will be up to the Resident Council because that's another area that we have to do is we have to establish a Resident Council within our residents. And so, those are things that have

proven to be a little challenging right now, but I'm someone that believes very strongly in community engagement, and mentoring, and empowering. And I think that working with our residents and providing these types of encouragements and, and engagement, I think that we can, that we can bring out leadership skills in people that didn't even realize that they have.

Board member Rogers: That's good. And then my third question would be important to me because I still don't understand after many years (inaudible) I think the City of South Tucson has about four housing buildings or whatever, Casa de Sedley, blah, blah, blah, etcetera, but I think, but I don't know if it's true or what, I think that you may send out people to other housing everywhere around the City plus South Tucson and they all get paid, and I never see anybody from South Tucson come and look at any of those places they place the people. I don't know if you're getting (inaudible).

Ms. Villegas: We have 22, we have 11 duplexes that, under the Public Housing Authority that are scattered sites.

Board member Rogers: Yes, scattered ...

Ms. Villegas: 'Cause they're ...

Board member Rogers: ... sites.

Ms. Villegas: ... under the, they're under us and whenever we send anything out, we always have our maintenance people drop off to our scattered site residents, anything that's going out because, again, we want to be inclusive. You may be thinking about our Section 8 program. Our Section 8 program, we do have some real problems right now with (inaudible). And those are people, those are, City of Tucson provides, people find housing here, but the Section 8 voucher is from the City of Tucson. So, then they come here and we have to, we get \$40 for, a month for administering that voucher, but we know that there are a lot of issues with, with some of our Section 8 landlords. And we're trying to address those one at a time. I think that it's really hard with Section 8 because it's really up to the landlord and the, and the inspector, you know, to really approve whether or not that house is habitable.

Board member Rogers: My concern not only is for the Commission plus the resident, are, are the, is the Commission should be responsible for all of Housing in South Tucson or just those four buildings we keep talking about.

Ms. Villegas: Your responsibility is also our Section 8 voucher.

Board member Rogers: That's what I mean.

Ms. Villegas: Yeah. Yeah, that's part of, that's part of the, the Public Housing Authority is those vouchers as well. And we can do, you know, I'm willing to do, my, my (inaudible) you, you want me to answer what, what I would expect any ...

Board member Rogers: Of the ...



Ms. Villegas: ... (inaudible) ...

Board member Rogers: ... Commission, please.

Ms. Villegas: ... that I ...

Board member Rogers: (Inaudible) ...

Ms. Villegas: ... would expect that, that you, that you, that you allow me the opportunity to educate you on anything that you don't know about Housing. And I want you to really understand what you're seeing, you know, whether it's a Finance Report, or any report that you get. I want to make sure that you have a clear understanding of what those reports are because then you will know if we're in trouble or not, you know. And you'll see if we're going up, you know, if we're improving, you'll be able to see that as well. There's a lot of, you know, honestly, we get all our funding from HUD and so we have to, we have a lot of, of check and balances within HUD. But then, you know, HUD only sees what you enter into the computer. You know, they don't have all the backup documentation. And that's why it's important that I not be the only person responsible for that. That's why we need someone like Lourdes, our Finance Director, and then we also pay a software fee accounting company to also be the other eyes, so we have three eyes on, on all the, the expenses, the payables, the procurement. Procurement is really, really, it's really important and when HUD comes down, when they audit, the findings that they catch are usually procurement issues because they're not, they're not following the process. And that's, that's a big, big one for HUD. So I really wanna focus on improving that as well. And I'll bring you, at the next meeting when I talk more about procurement, I will bring you a really good diagram of when it's required and how, and it's simple for you to (inaudible).

Board member Rogers: That'd be great.

Board member R. Romero: Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Thank you.

Board member Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Okay.

Chairman Teso: I was gonna mention something as well.

Board member Diaz: I have another, in regards to your procurement, I recommend that you get a list of the businesses in the City of South Tucson.

Ms. Villegas: Yeah, I did get that today.

Board member Diaz: You did?



Ms. Villegas: Yes.

Board member Diaz: Okay, great. Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Yeah, I was gonna talk about the same thing. I know before, you know, that the former Director had said that she was having trouble finding people to fix the air conditioners. Okay. And, and couldn't find any in South Tucson. I said, you know, 'cause I went over a lot of the business lists, businesses list that we have here in South Tucson when I first came on. And I found six of 'em there. Now I couldn't, I couldn't tell from that, you know, whether they're, you know, large companies, you know, like that do things like, you know, maintain large complexes or whatever, versus whether you have, you know, the local resident guy that you call up, you know, and they go out and charge you sixty bucks, you know, to, you know, do the annual check-up on your, on your air conditioner. Two very different kinds of, of businesses, I think and, but you know, still, you know, I knew that, I mean there was one across the street right here like on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. And, you know, that's a fairly large one. And so, you know, it's kind of like, yeah, they are available, you know, they're here. And I think, and as I recall, I remember somebody complaining about that, actually and saying that they weren't using the, the businesses here in the, in the City. But I would, you know, I think it also provides impetus for the City itself to maybe start developing a few data bases, you know, that you can put this information from businesses and things like that; business licenses, you know, to, you know, so you'll have that and maintain that, that data base or something so, you know, you'll always know who's there and who isn't, and, and what they can and what they can't do, that kind of stuff. And, you know, I realize that this is, should be doing business a little bit differently than from what we're used to doing it here. But, you know, I know the City of Tucson does, I mean they have lots and lots of staff to do that. They have technology and all that, you know, which we don't, don't have. But I don't think it'd have, you know, we're a small town and we can start doing that kind of thing.

Board member Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Board member Oyegbola: How you doing, Ms. Villegas?

Ms. Villegas: Good.

Board member Oyegbola: Alright. I just wanted to point out three things. I want to commend you on having a plan, one. I appreciate how you put this together. It says a lot. Two, the internal finance control. I appreciate that. That's gonna help us a lot, having the Finance Director and also the fee accountant. Lastly, your mission statement for the Housing Authority, the last, the last part of it stood out to me where you said the resources that, or for opportunity for upward economic mobility that would improve the quality of their lives. The reason that stuck out to me is, of course, when you're going through South Tucson, whether it's the public housing, or it's the trailer park, or something, some people need some hope. And that upward mobility, I feel, you, you pointed out that a lot of residents could really use where they're not just sitting in public housing for who know how many years, but they actually have goals and plans to move, to do better, you know, or to purchase a home here in South Tucson or something, that they're not just sitting in public housing.

So, giving them that, like you said earlier, empowerment to look towards upward mobility, I think, is key to what you put in here. But that's (inaudible). Thank you.

Ms. Villegas: Thank you. I see a lot of generational poverty in the, in the complex and we have to find a way to stop that. You know, we have to stop that, that continuing cycle of poverty. And so, that's something that I'm very passionate about. That's the work that I really want to get into, you know, but until I can fix all these other, I call them the bureaucratic stuff, I can't really get down into the trenches and, and really work on, on helping the people that live there. And I see, you know, a lot of people that, that, I see a lot of hope in people, you know. And, you know, we have a lot of problems. I'm considering, we just had an incident on Wednesday where a young lady, mother of two, her children, or she, it's a long story, but to make it short, her children were taken away because she was smoking meth and, and selling drugs out of one of our units. And so, we had to evict her, you know. And it's, that's a hard thing because she's 26 years old and you think, wow, maybe there's hope for her. Maybe if there was a program, a family unification program which HUD provides funding for and it provides a whole funding for a staff person to run it, that's something that we could maybe do in the future, you know, just this girl would have to do a lot, but maybe we could hold her unit so when she does get her children, if she ever, you know, can get her children within a timeframe, then she would have a home to bring them back to. You know, because that's one of the requirements. You know, so, I mean there's so many things that, you know, I think 26 years old, mother of two. And, and the situation, you know, and, and hopefully, you know, hopefully she can get, she can get her children back some day. You know, that's all we can hope for. But then I see another young girl who takes care of her mother, translates for her mother, met her. She's about 20 years old. She was telling me that she graduated from Veterinarian school. She loves animals. And she was about to get a job when COVID hit. And so she wants to volunteer. She wants to help. And so, I'm thinking about bringing the Pima Animal Care Unit, mobile unit there and do some, some, you know, education on how to take care of your animal and how to clean up your, after your animal because those are issues that we have. And she really, I told her maybe you can help me put something like that together. And, you know, that's a, that's giving her something, you know, more than what she has right now. And then maybe even helping her, you know, move, move up.

Chairman Teso: Yeah. I agree.

Board member Lopez: I got some questions. Does HUD provide any kind of inspirational, motivational techniques to inspire your residents to, not to rely on HUD for their housing, but to try to move onto a better life other than just relying on HUD to support 'em until either their runny, the money runs out or until they're kicked out, like the young lady, for whatever reason. But the point is, does HUD provide some kind of a.

Ms. Villegas: They provide resources and grants. There's a couple of grants. There's a Family Sufficiency Program where people that are on Section 8 can make a payment and part of that payment goes into a savings account. And in the meantime, they're getting financial education and other support, you know, to be able to make it on their own. The City has this program and I know people that have gone on to buy homes. And the way that they, when they buy the home, they take into account their Section 8, so they gradually have to go up in payment. You know, it's not a, it's not a payment shock.

Chairman Teso: Right, right.

Ms. Villegas: So, there's that program and then there's a Family Unification Program and there's other programs. And those are the ones that I'm actually gonna ask for your approval to, to put into the plan. Because those are things that I'm looking at to, to, it's a five-year plan, so I'm hoping that in year two or three, we can really start moving in that direction, once we fix all these, this other stuff.

Board member Lopez: Thank you.

ITEM #11 – RESOLUTION NO. 21-06 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING 2021 FAIR MARKET RENTS (FMR'S) FOR THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY (STHA)

Ms. Villegas: So, I'll go ahead, then, and the, the item that is on the agenda is the approval of the 2021 Fair Market Rents. And you can see there that the difference between '20 and '21 is not much, very slight. And it's important, though, because many times our landlords are charging, for Section 8 especially, are charging more rent than, than our tenants can qualify for. And so, every little bit that it can go up, then the tenant pays what they can afford and then Section 8 pays the rest. So, that's how that works. So, it's important that we get this approved as soon as possible. Do I read the resolution?

Ms. Moreno: (Inaudible).

Ms. Villegas: Okay. So, if there are any questions on the Fair Market Rents?

Board member Rogers: Yeah, (inaudible) fair about it.

Ms. Villegas: It's not.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Ms. Villegas: It's not. It's not. That's a whole other discussion.

Board member Lopez: But it's only \$8 or \$9 that shouldn't really bankrupt them.

Ms. Villegas: No, and ...

Board member Lopez: You know, but it's something like, like he lives in there for a long time. He should have thought about something in the future that the rent might go up or something, so it's something they just gotta learn how to, self-discipline themselves so they can make ends meet.

Ms. Villegas: Yeah, it's just that we have to put it in the system, you know, and so even if they pay more, we still have to, we have to collect it.

Board member Lopez: Yes.

Ms. Villegas: And that's part of the problem that's been happening about collecting the rent. But it is for another dis-, for another discussion, though, the way that, that we find a lot of our VASH, people that are coming from VASH, which is the Veterans program for vouchers that we don't have that program right now here, so we can't (inaudible) which is another one that I plan to put on there. But what's happening is that the reason that they're, that they come here to really substandard housing is because if you look at the studio rates, we can't find anything for that price in, in the City of Tucson. You know, and so they come here. You know, so, and then they're substandard and so it defeats, really, what HUD is trying to do. So with that said, I'll answer more questions on the Fair Market Rent.

Chairman Teso: Okay.

Ms. Villegas: And I will sit down and thank you very much, again, for your time and I look forward to, to further discuss.

Chairman Teso: Thank you.

Board member Oyegbola: Thank you.

Board member Lopez: Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Alright. So, we're done with Item #10. Moving onto Item #11. Is there an issue?

Mr. Yu: Was there any action on this resolution?

Chairman Teso: On Resolution No. 11? Yeah, yeah, that's what we're getting to, yeah. So Item #11 is Resolution No. 21-06 of the Housing Governing Board of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving and adopting 2021 Fair Market Rents (FMR'S) for the South Tucson Housing Authority. Do we have a, is there any discussion first?

Board member R. Romero: Make a motion we approve it.

Chairman Teso: Okay.

Board member Oyegbola: Second.

Chairman Teso: Second, okay. Any discussion?

(No discussion by the Board)

Chairman Teso: Moving onto Roll Call.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero.

Board member R. Romero: Yes.

Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.  
Board member Rogers: Abstain.  
Chairman Teso: Ms. Romero.  
Board member A. Romero: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Diaz.  
Board member Diaz: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.  
Board member Oyegbola: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Lopez.  
Board member Lopez: Yes.  
Chairman Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

Chairman Teso: Do we have a motion for City Council to adjourn from Housing Session and convene as a City Council into Regular Session?

Board member Oyegbola: So moved.

Board member Lopez: Second.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero.  
Board member R. Romero: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.  
Board member Rogers: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Ms. Romero.  
Board member A. Romero: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Diaz.  
Board member Diaz: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.  
Board member Oyegbola: Aye.  
Chairman Teso: Mr. Lopez.  
Board member Lopez: Yes.  
Chairman Teso: Aye.

Mayor Teso: We are now back in Regular Session.

ITEM #12 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. SECTION 38-431.03(A)(3)(4) – UPDATE: POTENTIAL LIABILITY RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS) PENSIONS

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to enter into Executive Session, or to adjourn from Regular Session and move to Executive Session?

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: So moved.

Mayor Teso: Do we have a second?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.

Councilman Romero: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.

Councilwoman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Aye. Motion carries. We are now in Executive Session.

(Mayor and Council in Executive Session)

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to exit Executive Session and move back into Regular Session?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.

Councilman Romero: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.

Councilwoman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Moving onto Item #13.

ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Motion to adjourn.

Mayor Teso: Is there a second?

Councilwoman Rogers: Second.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.

Councilman Romero: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.

Councilwoman Romero: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Aye.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Oyegbola: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Oh, yeah.

Mayor Teso: Aye. We are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk